

TRIBUTE TO 1997 EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the recipients of the 1997 Excellence in Business Awards. Sponsored by a distinguished newspaper in the Central Valley of California, the Fresno Bee, the awards are designed to honor businesses and one individual from the community who have demonstrated high ethical standards, corporate success and growth, employee and customer service, and concern for the environment. The recipients will be honored at a luncheon given in their honor on Thursday, May 8, 1997, in Fresno, CA.

Dozens of nominations were submitted and the following were selected to represent the breadth of businesses throughout the Valley:

INTERNATIONAL AGRI-CENTER (TULARE) AGRICULTURE

Although the center is staffed by just 10 employees, a volunteer staff of more than 600 people make up the strength of this business. Through the assistance of all, the International Agri-Center produces the annual California Farm Equipment Show, the greatest international event of its kind.

FRESNO RESCUE MISSION/CRAYCROFT YOUTH CENTER (FRESNO) CHARITABLE

The only organization of its kind, the Fresno Rescue Mission/Craycroft Youth Center represents the sole Fresno County receiving home for abused and neglected children. Services offered through the center include counseling, education services, and health exams. The most unique feature of the center is that it allows for siblings to remain together at one location, thereby keeping families intact.

BUCKMAN-MITCHELL INSURANCE (VISALIA) FINANCE

Working on its 81st year in business, Buckman-Mitchell Insurance has more than 60 employees and clients throughout the world. The company is known well throughout the Central Valley for its high ethical standards and community involvement. Such an example of the level of dedication that exists within the company is evidenced by the fact that the company donates as much as \$100,000 a year to the Visalia community.

ST. AGNES MEDICAL CENTER (FRESNO) HEALTH CARE

St. Agnes, the fourth largest employer in Fresno County, opened its doors in 1929. Since then, the staff at St. Agnes has made continuous strides in the health care field. Between 1993 and 1996, outpatient volumes at the medical center increased by more than 76,400. The medical center is also helping to find positions outside of the hospital, as they assist in funding a case worker for Fresno Unified School District's teen parenting program, Future Positive.

GRUNDFOS PUMPS CORPORATION (CLOVIS) MANUFACTURING

An example of a home-based operation, Grundfos Pumps, was first established in the cellar of Paul Due Jensen's home in Denmark in 1945. Since then the company has expanded and opened its operation for U.S. manufacturing in Clovis in 1974. The compa-

ny's continuous commitment to excellence and education has continued to grow over the years. Since 1987, Grundfos has been a business partner with Clovis Unified School Districts and continues to place great importance on employee training and training.

FRESNO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (FRESNO) NON-PROFIT

The Chafee Zoological Gardens at Roeding Park was incorporated in 1949. Visited by more than 400,000 people the society grossed more than 1.78 million in 1995 from combined fundraising activities. The Society remains a source of attraction to the Fresno area due to an outstanding membership organization. Growing from 2,500 in 1988 to 6,400 in 1997, the society recently recognized Director David W. Kyle as Outstanding Fund-raising Executive of the Year by the National Society of Fundraising Executives.

BAKER, MANOCK & JENSEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW (FRESNO)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

As one of the oldest and most-established law firms in the Valley, Baker, Manock & Jensen employs 47 lawyers, 10 paralegals, and more than 50 other staff members in support positions. The firm is recognized as a member of commercial law affiliates, an association of A-rated firms throughout the world. In addition to a heavy and extremely active work load, members of the firm devote numerous personal hours to assist with more than 20 nonprofit organizations throughout the community.

LA TAPATIA TORTILLERIA, INC. (FRESNO) RETAIL/WHOLESALE

La Tapatia is a homegrown business built from the ground up. Helen Chavez-Hansen first purchased the business in 1969 for \$1,900. Since then, La Tapatia has grown from 6 employees and one tortilla oven to a staff of over 155. La Tapatia's 40,000-square-foot plant can produce 5,500 dozen tortillas per hour. The intense quality control program of the plant assures that an individual is receiving the best commercial product available.

FORTIER TRANSPORTATION (FRESNO) SMALL BUSINESS

In 1911, Fortier Stage Lines was founded and provided passenger service to its customers. In 1991, the business went back to its original function as a regulated interstate motor freight carrier. Kathy Fortier, the owner of Fortier Transportation, began with one part-time driver in 1992. Today, the business employs office staff, shop personnel, and five company drivers.

HALL OF FAME AWARD CLAUDE LAVALL III

As President of Lavall-Separator Corp., Claude Lavall III's high standards and work ethic have become the hallmarks of his business. Lavall has been actively involved in the expansion of his business, recently growing into Mexico. As a businessman in the international marketplace, Lavall Corp. believes that sales and service personnel are responsible for advancing the standards that have made this business so successful. From the business to the education and community sector, Claude Lavall III is currently in partnership with Erickson School, a companywide effort.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the 1997 Excellence in Business Awards highlights the top representatives in numerous fields throughout the Valley. I commend these businesses for their successes, as well as the men and women who own them, for they believe—and

have proven—that hard work is the foundation for individual and community-oriented successes. I ask my colleagues to join me today to salute all of the recipients of this award. They embody the highest ethical standards and concern both for themselves and their community.

WIC SAVES MONEY

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, the Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children is one of the most cost-effective investments we make. It is exactly what is needed from to serve human needs and to be fiscally responsible.

WIC prevents problems from occurring in the future. We now know that early childhood cognitive development is crucial for that child's long-term growth and ability to learn.

Every dollar spent on WIC saves \$3 in health care costs. Further, WIC is not a feeding program, it is a health program. It ensures that pregnant mothers will receive some attention to their health.

The reduction in WIC in this supplemental appropriation means that, for the first time, we will be dropping participants from the rolls rather than adding them. We must care about kids not only from conception to birth but as they grow and develop as well. Adequate funding of WIC is an excellent way to start.

OPPOSITION TO CHANGES IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and to the readers of the RECORD a letter that was sent to me by one of my constituents, Bob Affel. Bob is the president of Sun Electric Co. in Knoxville, TN.

As many of you may know, President Clinton recently created a huge controversy when he announced that his administration would be changing the Federal procurement policy. The proposed changes could be used to unfairly discriminate against businesses that operate without a union. In addition, the changes could cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

Bob is uniquely aware, from a businessman's perspective, of exactly how the current regulations work. Since he has read through and tried to comply with these illogical bureaucratic requirements, his letter gives an excellent discussion of the issues surrounding President Clinton's latest proposal.

In addition to Bob's comments, I would personally add that I have seen estimates that the proposed policy would end up raising the cost of Federal Government construction spending by \$4.8 billion annually or reduce the amount of construction by 30 percent. With our Nation more than \$5.5 trillion in debt, we should not be encouraging this sort of wasteful spending.